

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11
OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0449
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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FOR IO/LAB MILLS; S/IL GOOD

PASS LABOR FOR SAMUEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB ILO
SUBJECT: 206TH ILO GOVERNING BODY SESSION

1. SUMMARY: 206TH SESSION CLOSED DEBATE SATURDAY 3 JUNE IN A LOW KEY ATMOSPHERE. APART FROM ITEM 3, VACANCY IN THE GOVERNING BODY; ITEM 5, ICFTU ALLEGATION AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ITEM 6, REPORT ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION NOR DISCUSSION. DEBATE ON FOREGOING THREE AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSION OF ITEM 3 CONCERNING THE VACANCY OF THE GOVERNING BODY PRODUCED MODEST INTERVENTIONS INCLUDING FRANICH (YUGOSLAVIA) WHO SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO HURRY UP THE PROCEDURE BUT THAT THERE WAS A DILEMMA IN THAT THE OLD FORMULA WHICH WAS USED TO DETERMINE THE EXISTING MEMBERSHIP (10 NON-ELECTIVES) COULD BE EMPLOYED OR DEVISE A NEW FORMULA WHICH COULD AFFECT THE PRESENT ORDER AND COMPOSITION OF THE TEN. BERGENSTROM (EMPLOYER VICE CHAIRMAN) CALLED FOR EARLY ACTION IN ORDER TO FOLLOW DUE PROCESS. AZIMI (IRAN) SAID THE GB COULD NOT WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE RE ART. 7, YET THOUGHT IT PREMATURE TO TAKE ACTION NOW AS IT MIGHT BE A DETERRENT TO US RE-ENTRY. OSMAN (SOMALIA) ECHOED REMARKS BY AZIMI BUT RAISED QUESTION SIMILAR TO FRANICH'S. LEGAL ADVISER WOLF EXPLAINED RULES WHICH MEANT USING OLD FORMULA TO DETERMINE NEW MEMBER ADDED TO CURRENT LIST OF TEN. IT WAS THEN AGREED THAT THE DIREC-
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TOR GENERAL WOULD COMPOSE A LIST OF EXPERTS TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK OF EXAMINING UP-TO-DATE STATISTICAL DATA. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL INTENDS TO DEVELOP SUCH A LIST DURING THIS MONTH OF JUNE.

3. THE GB IN A CLOSED SESSION DECIDED THAT THE ICFTU'S COMPLAINT AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALLEGING NON-OBSERVANCE OF THE DISCRIMINATION (EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION) CONVENTION NO. 111 SHOULD BE PUBLICLY DISCUSSED AT THE NOVEMBER 1978 SESSION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF A CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT DELEGATE. THE GB'S DECISION WAS REACHED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF A COMMITTEE OF THREE GB MEMBERS APPOINTED IN JUNE 1977. REPORTS INDICATE THAT DURING THE CLOSED SESSION COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES STRONGLY DENOUNCED THE ACTION, "AS AN UNWARRANTED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A NATION." THE GB DECISION TO DISCUSS THE REPORT OF ITS THREE-MAN COMMITTEE AT THE NOVEMBER 1978 SESSION OPENS THE WAY FOR A DECISION AT THAT TIME TO MAKE PUBLIC THE ICFTU'S ALLEGATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY AND PRESUMABLY, THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS THAT CONVENTION NO. 111 HAS BEEN VIOLATED.

4. DURING THE INITIAL DISCUSSION OF ITEM 6 ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION (PUBLIC SESSION) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GB NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF CASES HAD BEEN POSTPONED FOR DISCUSSION UNTIL ITS NEXT SESSION. AMONG THEM WAS THE WCL CASE 905 WHICH DESPITE THE FACT IT WAS NOT UNDER DISCUSSION, THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE CLAIMED THAT THE GB WAS TAKING AN ACTION IN VIOLATION OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A SOVEREIGN NATION AND CALLED THE ACTION, "...A RE-TURN TO THE COLD WAR." VANDEN HEUVEL

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